(iii) Need to review the functioning of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in the country particularly in Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI N.J. RATHWA (Chhota Udaipur) : The amount under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (J.R.Y.) provided for the development works in the rural areas, is disbursed through the Sarpanches and the general typists of lower grade. As this is not disbursed through the Gazetted Officers, there is gross misutilisation of it.

Another fact to be noted in this regard is that the projects to be executed under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, are approved through this Gram Panchayat Members, which is a very defective system.

I request the Central Government that the amount which is disbursed through the Sarpanhes and lower grade general typists under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, should be done through a Gazetted Officer, atleast of the rank of Block Development Officer (B.D.O.). The power to sanction works under this scheme should vest in Taluka Planning Committee. Also, State wise investigation should be conducted by a monitoring Committee specially in Gujarat, regarding the amount allotted during the past three years, under this scheme.

(iv) Need to clear the pending proposal of State Government of Andhra Pradesh for installation of Public Telephones in Remote areas

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, the Andhra Pradesh Government has drawn attention of the Union Government that the Canadian International Development Agency, Ottawa has proposed to the Ministry of Communications, Government of India, to instal public telephones in rural and remote areas using the latest radio access technologies. The CIDA proposes to implement this project in Andhra Pradesh where Bell, Canada, the reputed Telecommunications company has partnership with Tata Communications and Tata Tele Services, the two joint venture companies which are implementing the cellular mobile radio and basic telephone service licence in Andhra Pradesh. The choice of Andhra Pradesh is on grounds of synergy assured capability and rapid completion of the project in association with Telecom Andhra Pradesh as well as the two private telephone companies.

Andhra Pradesh has a large number of inaccessible areas including tribal areas which are not well-covered with public telephones. Therefore, the Government of India has been urged by Andhra Pradesh to accept the CID project and has been urged to convey its approval at the earliest. I, therefore, urge upon the Minister of Communications to look into the matter.

(v) Need to provide Financial Assistance to State Government of Bihar for providing relief to the people affected by heavy rains in North Bihar

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the situation has deteriorated to a great extent in North Bihar due to heavy rains. The rain of only two-three days broke the record of past twenty years .but even then the rain did not stop. There was nothing but water all around. Roads are damaged. Kuchha houses and huts collapsed due to heavy rains. There has been heavy loss of life and property. The situation in Samastipur is even worse. I request the Government to assess the loss and undertake relief work immediately. At the same time permission be granted for the construction of additional Indira Awas for the poor people.

(vi) Need for comprehensive policy on mining of Precious Stones in North Chota-Nagpur, Bihar

SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHWAKARMA (Hazaribag) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, precious stones are found abundantly in Chotanagpur in Bihar but due to inconsistent policy of the Government large scale theft of precious stones is taking place. Causing huge loss to the Government and the country as well. I request the Government to formulate a comprehensive policy and take strong measures immediately so that the Government may benefit from it.

(vii) Need for allotment of Forest Land for wind Farms in Karnataka

[English]

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH (Bellary) : In Karnataka, high wind speeds are identified only on the hills and the hills are mostly located in the forest land. Allotment of forest land is at present done by the Central Government. In Karnataka, the land required for building up of 2 MW wind farm will be about 15 hectares.

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister for Non-Conventional Energy Sources to take up the matter with the Ministry of Environment and Forest and ensure that powers of allotment of forest land is given to the Chief Conservator of Forests of Karnataka so as to acquire the land in small pieces for building of wind farms.